Nietzsche's "Antichrist" Proves, on Reading, To Be Anti-Paul

A Rebel's Outburst

Nietzsche's Lifelong Antipathy to Christianity Concentrated in "The Antichrist"

result his works have attracted a great translation. deal of unintelligent praise and a great deal of ignorant and malignant ani-"The Antichrist" (Knopf);

The "Monster, Nietzsky"

with badges, to meet the charge that I was an intimate associate and agent and his face toward the enemy. of 'the German monster, Nietzsky.' I quote the official proces verbal, an indignant, but often misspelled, docu-

Probably most educated Americans. unlike the Department of Justice, know that Nietzsche has been dead for some twenty years and know how to spell his name. But many people who ought to know better still insist, perhaps for the sake of euphony, on grouping him with the two conventional apostles of Prussian militarism, Treitschke and Bernhardi. Now, it is doubtful whether a man ever lived more devoid of nationalist feeling than Friedrich Nietzsche. Far from being proud of his German origin, he did his best, in spite of the genealogical records, to prove himself a Pole. He lived most of his life in Switzerland and Italy. lusion that the modern Germans were a superior race, fitted to conquer and dominate the world. On the contrary, his writings abound in bitter strictures German and French culture, much to grown powerful.

Greeks were perhaps the most intellect- a savior, Japan stayed as a conqueror. ual, the least spiritual, the least in-

attacking religion. By a curious para- Corea. dox the philosopher's long line of pious "The Antichrist":

corruptions; it seeks to work the ulti- thing unbreakable of spirit. mate corruption, the worst possible corruption. The Christian Church has left nothing untouched by its depravity; it has turned every value into worthlessness, and every truth into a lie, and every integrity into baseness of soul." This is not the language of a con-

vinced skeptic, but of a perverted evangelist, turning the batteries of his moral earnestness against something which he believes to be false. Despite all his expressed contempt for Christian asceticism, Nietzsche, in his own way, is a good deal of an ascetic himself, a St. Simon Stylites of atheism. He is never more sincere, more impasstoned than when he is setting forth the dangers and hardships of the intellectual life. So, denouncing faith as an easy means of evading the responsibilities of intellectual integrity, he says:

Faith Denounced. "Man has had to fight for every atom of the truth, and has had to pay for it almost everything that the heart, that human love, that human trust cling to. Greatness of soul is needed for this business; the service of truth is the hardest of all services. What, then, is the meaning of integrity in things intellectual? It means that a man must be severe with his own heart, that he must scorn 'beautiful feelings,' and that he makes every Yea and Nay a matter of conscience! Faith makes blessed: therefore it lies."

Despite its title "The Antichrist" is not so much anti-Christ as anti-Paul. Nietzsche maintains the theory that the original teachings of Jesus, teachings of quietism and spiritual anarchism, were perverted by Paul into a

RIEDRICH NIETZSCHE is one creed of hatred and revenge, a creed of the most discussed and that spitefully disparaged health and most misunderstood philosoph- joy and exalted sickliness and sorrow, ical thinkers of all time. Pos- To him Paul is the incarnation of sessed of an extraordinarily complex priestcraft; and he lavishes upon him and finely wrought intellect and of a every abusive epithet in his vocaburemarkable faculty for literary expres- lary. Except for the last few pages sion, his work is characterized by the the book shows little evidence of any double subtlety of the seer and of the mental strain or weakness, although poet. To understand him even meas-it was written only a short time before urably well is an achievement of no the author's tragic mental break-down. little distinction: It requires charity As always Nietzsche writes bitterly, and broad knowledge and freedom from | vehemently, passionately; but his analysis of the spiritual origin of Chris-Unfortunately most of Nietzsche's tianity, although envenomed with hoscritics have been neither charitable tile prejudice, is supported by sound nor learned, nor free from prejudice. historical and philosophical scholar-Unlike most philosophers, Nietzsche ship. The charm of the author's style, had a habit of expressing provocative its combined flexibility and vigor, is ideas in a provocative manner. As a admirably preserved in Mr. Mencken's

madversion. One of the most wide- by the twin devils of sickness and spread misconceptions about the trend loneliness, and always pursuing his and significance of Nietzsche's thought ideals at whatever cost of spiritual is amusingly illustrated by the follow- suffering, without conceiving a measure ing anecdote told by Mr. H. L. Mencken of sympathy and admiration for the in his introduction to a new edition of man, however much one may disagree with or condemn his views. And it seems appropriate that "The Antichrist." one "On the strength of the fact that I had published a book on Nietzsche in 1906, six years after his death, I was called upon by agents of the Departcalled upon by agents of the Department of Justice, elaborately outfitted be irretrievably broken; but to the ment of Justice, elaborately outfitted

Insurgent Corea

A Nation's Soul Aroused by Oppression

A. MACKENZIE tells vividly book "Korea's Fight for Freedom"
Alan, a Canadian farmer lad, is very much attracted by Barry, a wild, beaugether in one volume, with "Isn't The ple are said to be a blank, and those tiful girl, who loves to dress in Indian of Corea until forty years ago were fashion. In the last chapter he carries singularly so. But her past forty her away his bride in a canoe. years are crowded with events, and of some of these Mackenzie writes as an eyewitness.

the ancient East and the modern West validity. Alan, in the intervals of his opponent writes in her half of the of his life in Switzerland and Italy.

He never for a moment shared the deseraglio, an emperor broken to modern the "plain people" of Canada against well they understand them." That is forced to bridge the world of two and the Toronto financiers. The rebel- through the two essays which caused thousand years ago with this modern lion turns out a fiasco and Alan finds so much amusement some time ago against German stupidity, and he de- one and the steady, cold encroach- himself in jail, with the prospect of a when they appeared in a magazine. lighted in drawing contrasts between ment of an ancient enemy suddenly long prison sentence hanging over him. Cobb's reflections on the way women

the disadvantage of the former. His Placed as a buffer state between the disadvantage of the former. His Placed as a buffer state between of a good fairy. Alan is extricated in dress and their vagaries of mind are from his legal difficulties; Barry, her philosophical as well as entertaining. colleague, Treitschke, are couched in the covetous eyes of both were upon questionable husband having convenanything but complimentary language. her. It was a peril which finally be-From the viewpoint of Anglo-Saxon came a security, and ironically it re- comes to its inevitable conclusion, merely upholds her own and does not morality Nietzsche has enough sins to mained for a party of patriots, lib- Alan, in his diary, is the supposed nar- bother at comparison. However, we answer for without loading him down erals revolting from the despotism of rator of the tale, and the style of an think she slips up where she compares

Mr. Mencken describes Nietzsche as romantic, adventurous men of Corea tion, "For there are two sides to al- rails and rails at the women, his next "a Greek born two thousand years too rebelled at the proscriptions and ex- most every story," the author con- to the last words refer to "the ladies, whole truth. The Greek element in ously sought to avert it. The Emperor's els and loyalists alike. Nietzsche was very strong, and accounts intense conservatism was due to the for his hearty contempt for such Chris- influence of the Empress, a woman of tian doctrines as sin, redemption and remarkable will and energy, and the the purification of the soul through the mortification of the body. Among the civilized on Japan for asthe civilized races of antiquity the sistance in their rebellion. Coming as

The story of the debasement and clined to console themselves for the exploitation which followed is familiar misfortunes of this life by conjuring enough by now. Even a cynical Western up visions of other worldly bliss.

But no Greek of the fifth century dignation at the tales of torture and en-B. C. would have been likely to dis- slavement, of terrorism and ruin which play Nietzsche's fanatical intensity in missionaries have brought out of

But the amazing and dramatic thing, ancestors (his forefathers for several the thing above all things worth chrongenerations were Lutheran pastors) icling, which Mr. Mackenzie sets down may fairly be held responsible for his most violent diatribes against Christidefeat the Corean people, seemingly a anity. Take the sentences of wild de spiritless folk, have found a national nunciation that appear near the end of soul which they themselves were not aware of possessing. The passivity, the "I condemn Christianity; I bring timidity, the obedience have been pierced against the Christian Church the most through by their suffering and a bedterrible of all the accusations that an rock of national character has been accuser has ever had in his mouth. It touched. It has revealed in them an is, to me, the greatest of all imaginable austerity, a flaming idealism, some-



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But here the author assumes the rôle get off streetcars, their inconsistencies with an association with Prussian mili- the emperor, to break the deadlock earlier generation is preserved by in- women to dogs and lets a few lines go tarism, which he would be the first to which had been Corea's preservation. serting frequent "albeits" and occa- through admitting that men are the stronger and superior sex. But you the door in the '80s, and the younger Prefacing the book with the quota- know how women are! And after Irv

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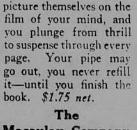
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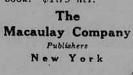
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the work of Chekhov, through Con- mantic idyll worthy of Turgeniev. "The stance Garnett's translations, is be- Chorus Girl" and "Bad Weather" are qualified as any one to dispel the ous entanglements. habited only by saints, criminals and a village coffin maker. Had Chekhov

and Other Stories" (Macmillan), in- Broadway at Sixty-sixth Street, he and a number of shorter sketches. "My some appropriate reflections on the Auras are ordinarily associated with natural happenings as the author re-

inority should not be a parasite on marked. Both hate cruelty and injushe majority, nor a vampire forever tice; both, without subscribing to any ucking its vital sap; that is, all, with- abstract cult of humanity worship, ut exception, strong and weak, rich sincerely love and are interested in and poor, should take part equally in human beings. Neither Dickens nor he struggle for existence, each one on Chekhov possesses a profound psychois own account, and there is no better logical instinct; but both, by means of cans for equalizing things in that a lively imagination and an observant sy than manual labor, in the form of sense for details, have created work niversal service, compulsory for all," that is true and appealing and endur-By putting his idea into practice and ing. A single volume of Chekhov's oing out to work as a house painter e grieves his sister, enrages his father and earns the sneers of his notty-mind. earns the sneers of his petty-mindi neighbors. He meets a girl who is propaganda. ttracted by his independent mode of ife; they are married, but the glamour | E. P. Dutton & Co. will have ready of their love soon wears off, and they next week another edition of Max part, never to meet again. The atmos- Beerbohm's "A Christmas Garland, there of the small town in which the which might well be used by English cene of the story is laid in interpreted professors for collateral reading in with keen and pitiless fidelity. Gossip their courses on the subject of English and slander and all uncharitableness style.

A Book of Ghosts

Experiences

I Have Seen" (Stokes). The author ac- shows he is 'off color' in his dull, muddy itations throughout her life. After en- a deep, dull orange tinge in their astral of life. It is perhaps fortunate that sequential. "On the Road" is a ro-grotesque creatures which could not tual. Purple is the color of power, be identified with any scientific species, greatness. Children have an aura of

coming increasingly familiar to Ameri- two brief sketches in which a comical together with innumerable piercing crystal whiteness, which develops color can readers. For he is perhaps as well twist is given to a gentleman's amor-shrieks and other unaccountable after the age of seven." qualified as any one to disper the ous entanglements.

"Rothschild's Fiddle" is the story of come hardened to contacts with the She tells one especially gruesome story madmen, a manufactory of psychical been acquainted with the writings of spirit world. She declares that she of a seance in a haunted house in Dr. Berthold A. Baer, philosopher of would quite readily live in a room in- which the medium experienced the The latest volume of Chekhov, trans
Dr. Berthold A. Baer, philosopher of would quite readily live in a room in anguish of a double murder which had taken place there many years ago. ated under the title "The Chorus Girl glories of the Campbell Funeral Church, latter did not resent her intrusion and cludes one fairly long story, "My Life," might have enriched this tale with

Life" is the autobiography of a rather manifold consolations of a coffin pictures of saints and angels, but the lates. A skeptical mind will observe Life" is the autobiography of a rather manifold consolations of a country is that the author is obviously prediction of a country in author insists that practically every posed to mysticism and belief in occulwho honestly prefers hard manual labor reading, with a note of pathos at the human being has some such astral phenomena, and that she makes little cions. The hero expresses his simple Lovers of Dickens should thoroughly emanation hovering about his head, distinction between experiences which ommunistic ideal in the following pas- enjoy Chekhov, even if the Russian and professes herself adept in perceiv- rest upon personal observation and author's work is placed in a less faauthor's work is placed in a less faing them and interpreting their siging them and interpreting their siging them and interpreting their sigsay. But, whatever the flaws in Mrs.
Tweedale's scientific armor, her stories hould not enslave the weak, that the tween the two men is quite strongly those whose powers of perception exceed their faculties of interpretation a trifle weird and shivery at bedtime

nation of auras may be given;

"Though crimson red is the color of anger, there is a beautiful soft rose that is the color of love. The 'greeneyed monster' of jealousy history has handed down to us from the ancient seers, also the 'jaundiced' appearance PPARITIONS of all kinds squeak of envy. A gloomy, grumbling perand gibber through the pages of son has a very leaden gray atmosphere Violet Tweedale's book, "Ghosts and one who has 'a fit of the blues" en yellow surrounding the heads of the

noises, the author seems to have be-

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